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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6344**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 94**

**NOTE PREPARED: Feb 15, 2005**

**BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2005**

**SUBJECT:** Employment Absence for Volunteer Firefighters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lewis

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Ruppel

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill authorizes a members of a volunteer emergency medical association (member) who is responding to a fire or emergency call from absence from political subdivision employment under certain circumstances. The bill specifies that the absence of a political subdivision employee who is a volunteer firefighter responding to a fire or an emergency call or a member who is responding to a call is not a violation of the ghost employment statute and that the supervisor of the employee who has authorized the absence has not committed ghost employment. A private employer of a firefighter or member who is responding to a call may not discipline the firefighter or member from absence from employment under certain circumstances. It allows the private employer to determine if the firefighter or member is considered to be an essential employee. A political subdivision or private employer is not required to pay salary or wages for the time the firefighter or member was absent. It also makes a technical correction.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Political subdivisions may elect to save expenses on salary or wages for those employees who are subject to this bill. Under certain conditions, employees may seek remuneration for the absence from employment by the use of vacation leave, personal time, or compensatory time off. The overall fiscal impact is dependent on local action.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Political subdivisions.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Valerie Ruda, 317-232-9867.